Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WJLA-TV
ABC Network

DATE August 19, 1985 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT E. Howard Hunt

DAVID HARTMAN: In addition to being a former CIA agent and convicted, of course, in the whole Watergate business, E. Howard Hunt is a very successful writer, and has been for many years: 58 books, 56 of them are fiction. His latest spy novel is just out. It's called The Kremlin Conspiracy.

Good morning, Howard. Good to have you here.

E. HOWARD HUNT: Good morning. Nice to be back, David.

HARTMAN: All right. Plot, basically: Nobel Prize candidate, West German, turns out to be an East German spy. Former American spy tries to uncover the truth before it's too late.

HUNT: That's right.

HARTMAN: How is this spy novel different, if in any way, from other ones that we may pick up somewhere?

HUNT: Well, I think you have to give some credit to my background. That is to say, I would never write, and never have written, anything that is not feasible of accomplishment. And my plots derive largely from my own experiences, my own knowledge of the espionage trade.

HARTMAN: Of the people who are writing spy books, most of them don't have your kind of intelligence background. What effect does that have on the books?

HUNT: Well, it makes people wonder why my books aren't as wild and as crazy as some of the others that are, let's say,

Material supplied Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2 d or exhibited.

Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2

more popular. And my answer is that that's not my bag, that I have to give some verisimilitude to the writing process.

HARTMAN: But does that mean that -- I mean the violence and the craziness and the bedroom scenes and all of that business, that that doesn't happen? Or does it happen in the spy business?

HUNT: It certainly doesn't happen in anything like the frequency that we find it in popular novels. In my books, I like to think that I have selected and compressed, brought everything together, and not made it too unbelievable.

HARTMAN: What about -- we hear about the KGB. What sells? What sells, of spy novels? What makes them sell? Do you know?

HUNT: Yes, I do. And I'll be glad to share it with you.

If the spy novel had to do with the recrudescence of the Third Reich, it's going to go -- it's going to become a best-seller. There's no way that it's not going to be. But it's very, very difficult for a book in which the Soviets and the KGB are the heavies to become a popular bestseller.

HARTMAN: What sense does that make in this country?

HUNT: Well, I don't know. It just means that people can't deal with the validity of a Soviet threat. That's the problem in this country.

HARTMAN: How do you compare the Soviet intelligence community to ours, and their capability to get done what is in the national interest of each?

HUNT: The Soviet service, of course, is vastly largely than ours. The figures, oh, range up to 2 1/2 million members of the KGB and GRU combined. The Soviet Union is a police state. They can do what they want to.

Our service is recovering now very slowly from the trashing of the mid-Seventies and the mass firings that took place in CIA. But, of course, you have to say in any discussion of intelligence services, their comparative worth, that the Mosad, on a per capita basis --that's the Israeli service -- is by far the best in the world.

HARTMAN: How much, when you say the trashing of the intelligence community here in the early Seventies, how much did you and all of those involved with Watergate have to do with that?

Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2

Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2

HUNT: Nothing. Nothing. We had nothing to do with it. That came by a separate approach. If you'll recall, there was this unfortunate case in New York. A man jumped out of a window, I believe. There'd been some experiments, some drug experiments, if you recall that. And I believe that that was what brought the Church Committee's attention to CIA, and then some of the misfeasances.

HARTMAN: What about the Walker case? There are three members of one family who've been indicted and are going on trial, and so forth. How usual, how surprised are you at that?

HUNT: I'm not surprised.

HARTMAN: How much should we be worried about it?

HUNT: We should be -- as a nation, we should be very, very concerned because we must realize that this is just one of, let's say, 50 or 60 cases that haven't been publicized, for various reasons; or, indeed, even discovered at this point.

HARTMAN: Howard, good to see you. Good luck with the book.

Approved For Release 2010/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000301840002-2